Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN KN KS

SUBJ: KOREA IN 28TH GA: SYG PRESS REMARKS JULY 10, 1973

SYG MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ON KOREA AT UN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION LUNCH JULY 10.

QUOTE

Q: IN LIGHT OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING BOTH KOREAS AND SUBCONTINENT, WHAT IS YOUR EVALUATION OF CHANCES OF THOSE THREE COUNTRIES BECOMING MEMBERS OF UN IN THE FALL.

SYG: AS YOU ARE FULLY AWARE, NORTH KOREA HAS REQUESTED OBSERVER STATUS AT UN HEADQUARTERS. WE HAVE GIVEN A POSITIVE ANSWER. I HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH US AUTHORITIES, BECAUSE THAT ALSO INVOLVES QUESTION OF GRANTING A VISA. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THAT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ANY PROBLEM. IN THE MEANTIME I RECEIVED CABLE FROM FONMIN OF NORTH KOREA THANKING ME FOR POSITIVE ANSWER, BUT I HAVE NOT YET BEEN INFORMED OF OBSERVER WHO WILL BE SENT TO NEW YORK. IN FACT, I CAN INFORM YOU THAT ALSO IN GENEVA NO OBSERVER HAS YET BEEN NAMED. WE ARE WAITING FOR FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH RESPECT TO ADMISSION OF DIVIDED COUNTRIES, YOU KNOW THAT NORTH KOREA HAS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES--NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA--SHOULD NOT BE ADMITTED SEPARATELY, BUT AS A UNIFIED COUNTRY. THEREFORE, WE SHALL HAVE TO SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP FURTHER.

Q: I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE KOREAN QUESTION. DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE CONDUCIVE TO EASING TENSIONS IN EAST ASIA AS WELL AS IN KOREAN PENINSULA IF AND WHEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA ARE ADMITTED TO UNITED NATIONS?

SYG: IN THE INTEREST OF UNIVERSALITY OF UN I WOULD WELCOME ENTRY THOSE COUNTRIES INTO UN. OF COURSE IT IS UP TO THEM TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WANT TO BE ADMITTED SEPARATELY OR AS A UNIFIED STATE. THERE ARE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY. I CAN ONLY EXPRESS HOPE THAT THESE TALKS WILL PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS. IT IS NOT UP TO US TO DECIDE ON QUESTION HOW THEY SHOULD JOIN UN: AS AS UNIFIED COUNTRY OR AS TWO SEPARATE ENTITIES.

Q: IN REGARD TO KOREA, THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF TWO KOREAS BECOMING MEMBERS. YOU HAVE POINTED OUT SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES.MY QUESTION IS: DO YOU NOT THINK THAT IT IS HIGH TIME SOMETHING WAS DONE TO TERMINATE UN PRESENCE THERE--I MIGHT EVEN SAY ANOMALY OF UN PRESENCE? WOULD IT NOT HELP THE PROCESS OF THESE TWO COUNTRIES BECOMING MEMBERS, AND UNIFICATION?

SYG: IT IS UP TO THE GA TO DECIDE THIS QUESTION. I
HAVE IMPRESSION THAT HERE, TOO, WE HAVE REACHED A
TURNING POINT. AFTER DECLARATIONS THAT WERE MADE BY THE
PRESIDENT OF SOUTH KOREA AND REACTION FROM NORTH KOREA,
IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT WE HAVE TO SEE THIS QUESTION
IN NEW LIGHT. I IMAGINE THAT THIS YEAR WE WILL HAVE A
NEW SITUATION WHEN WE DEAL WITH SUBSTANCE OF THIS MATTER.
END QUOTE
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